

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-02 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1170

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC; JERUSALEM FOR USDEL

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IS IT VT EEC
SUBJ: MFA COMMENTS ON DAYAN VISIT TO ITALY AND VATICAN

REFS: ROME 788, ROME 976, 77 TEL AVIV 11303

1. AMBASSADOR YITZHAK MINERBI, MFA
DIRECTOR OF EUROPE
(COMMON MARKET), JUST RETURNED FROM ITALY, TOLD EMBOFF ON
JAN 23 THAT ALTHOUGH NO NEW ICE HAD BEEN BROKEN, FOREIGN
MINISTER DAYAN WAS SATISFIED WITH VISIT. BECAUSE OF THE
ATMOSPHERE OF EXPECTATION BEFORE THE MEETINGS IN CAIRO AND
JERUSALEM, THE RECEPTION WAS FRIENDLY, DISCUSSIONS
RELAXED, AND THE ITALIANS WERE QUITE HOSPITABLE, BUT SHOWED
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NO INCLINATION TO ASSUME A LESS CRITICAL ATTITUDE TO-
WARD ISRAEL. THE IMPORTANT ISSUE OF ISRAELI CITRUS
EXPORTS TO THE EEC REMAINED UNRESOLVED.

2. ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT, ACCORDING
TO MINERBI, WAS DAYAN'S MEETING WITH THE LEADERS OF THE
POLITICAL PARTIES. MOST NOTABLY BELINGUER, CHAIRMAN OF

THE PCI, DEVIATED FROM THE SOVIET LINE AND ENDORSED SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE AND DIRECT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS.

3. SIMILARLY THE ISRAELIS WERE PLEASED WITH THE RECEPTION THEY RECEIVED AT THE VATICAN AND THE AUDIENCE WITH POPE PAUL. THE POPE HAD PRIASED THE SADAT-BEGIN PEACE TALKS AND RESTATED THE VATICAN'S POSITION ON JERUSALEM, NOT ENDORSING SEPARATE INTERNATIONAL STATUS, BUT LIMITING VATICAN INTEREST TO FREE ACCESS TO AND PROTECTION AND SPECIAL STATUS OF THE HOLY PLACES IN VIEW OF JERUSALEM'S IMPORTANCE TO THE THREE GREAT MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS. THE SUBJECT OF THE RECENTLY PASSED ISRAELI ANTI-CONVERSION LAW WAS ALSO RAISED IN PASSING, AND THE POPE APPEARED TO ACCEPT DAYAN'S EXPLANATION OF THE LIMITED APPLICABILITY OF THE LAW TO OVERT CASES OF BRIBERY IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONVERSION AND OF ITS PERTAINING TO ALL RELIGIONS. DAYAN ALSO RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT THE VATICAN WOULD ABIDE BY ITS AGREEMENT REGARDING THE CONDITION FOR ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI'S RELEASE. LEWIS

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